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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 24 March 1948

SUBJECT Sentiment in SED For and Against
Cancellation of the 1948 Elections

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1. In a closed meeting of SED officials in Saxony-Anhalt in February 1948 Walter Ulbricht indicated that the elections scheduled for the autumn of 1948 will not be held. Ulbricht said that SMA does not want the present process of political and economic reconstruction to be slowed and interrupted by new elections. Ulbricht claimed that this is in line with the general consolidation of the present position. Ulbricht's remarks were greeted with applause by Russian officers present.
2. Ulbricht's stand met with harsh criticism in a meeting of local Party officials without Russian observers. It was admitted that the SED may well lose votes in a new election; however, the chance to lay an increased burden of responsibility on the bourgeois parties outweighs all disadvantages. There is no danger that the CDU or LDP would attempt to translate an election victory into action since all the strong figures in these parties have been liquidated and since the country is still occupied by the Soviet Army.
3. A resolution was drawn up in this second meeting for dispatch to the SED Executive Committee incorporating the arguments against cancelling the election. Top officials of the SED in Halle intended to kill this resolution. It is not known whether it has actually reached the Executive Committee.

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